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The Asia-Pacific region has entered unchartered waters amidst worsening Sino-US contention. Few countries in Asia can resist the pressure choose sides, especially pressure from the United States. Very often this means to choose from their geopolitical interests and geoeconomic interests, but it seems that the geopolitical logic is increasingly taking the upper hand in the race. As a result, we are witnessing tremendous uncertainties in major power competition which have increasingly becoming zero-sum. This talk will analyze some strategic issues concerning the direction of regional security-making in the short-to-medium term. Among the topics of discussion will be militarized US-China contention in the South China Sea, Japan's substantial shift in defense posture, the return to nuclear confrontation in the Korean Peninsula, and the effect of the Ukraine War in Asia.

You Ji is Professor of International Studies at Xi-an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) and the author of four books, including China's Enterprise Reform (1998), The Armed Forces of China (1999), and China's Military Transformation: Politics and War Preparation (2016). He has also published numerous book chapters and journal articles, including various single-authored papers in Problems of Communism, International Journal of Korean Unification Studies, The China Journal, The Pacific Review, China Information, The China Review, China: An International Journal, Journal of Strategic Studies, Stockholm Journal of East Asian Studies, Issues and Studies, Italian Geopolitical Review, Comparative Strategy, Australian Army Journal, Asia Policy, Japanese Studies, Contemporary Southeast Asia, The Naval War College Review, Strategic Analysis, Journal of Contemporary China, Panorama: Insights into Southeast Asian and European Affairs, and Contemporary Security Policy. He sits on the editorial board of academic journals, including The China Journal, Issues and Studies, and Journal of Contemporary China.

<u>China Crossroads</u> hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at <u>editor@shanghai-review.org</u>.